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SAMWELL'S JOURNAL

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648 head the other to their waist, then wriggling their backsides in a
 lascivious manner, springing up again & repeating the same motions.
 541 Then dividing in equal numbers, retreating back, then running
 535 forwards & meeting, all the time repeating a Song & frequently
 [533] looking upward towards the Sky. They continued dancing about a
 quarter of an Hour & then went out of the Ring & were succeeded
 by a new sett. It was universally allowed that their Dancing was very
 beautiful & striking & much exceeding any thing of the kind that had
 been seen among other Indians, & being performed by candle light
 [43] had altogether a most pleasing Effect. As they withdrew each Nymph
 took the Chaplet of Flowers off her head & bestowed it upon her
 favourite Swain which no doubt was esteemed as a Mark of her
 peculiar Grace; many of them had the Politeness to offer them to some
 of our Gentlemen & they were accepted with Pleasure as marks of
 their particular Favour.

When two or three Setts had thus entertained us they were suc-
 648 ceeded by a party of Men whose Performance was not much unlike
 541 that of the Women, except their entering into a kind of Dialogue
 which we regretted that we did not understand, as it contained
 536 frequent strokes of Wit & humour, if we might judge from the loud
 [522] bursts of laughter echoing round us; they were composed of two
 Parties, an elderly person from each side meeting at the Head of their
 band & entering into a dialogue accompanied with many shrewd
 Gestures. This may be called a kind of Dramatic Entertainment, tho'
 there did not seem to be any marked or different Character in it like
 those in the same Species of Exhibition at the Society Isles. When they
 648 had retired a Company of young women came into the ring & sat
 541 down looking rather dejected. This unusual Appearance led us to
 expect some new Entertainment, & we were not kept long in Sus-
 pence before a Scene truly novel tho' not very entertaining was
 exhibited. A Man came into the ring & without any Ceremony
 advanced to one of the Girls who immediately bowed down her head
 & presented her back in an advantageous position, upon which he
 laid as heavy [a] blow as he could with both hands open & then
 proceeded to the next, & so on till he came to the last but two, when
 for what reason it is difficult to say, instead of striking her on her
 back he gave her a blow with all his Force on her naked Breasts
 which struck her backwards. Upon this a Man who was sitting in the
 ring jumped up & knocked him down, he took it in good part &
 walked off without uttering a syllable. To see this unmerciful Beadle
 punished was no small Pleasure to us all, as it was really more than
 we could well bear to be inactive Spectators of so many beautiful